



2019 Natick Community Garden Application and Agreement

Preferred Garden: ___ Hartford Street ___ JJ Lane ___ Navy Yard

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Telephone Number () _____ Cell () _____

Email Address _____

Others authorized to work my garden:

Name	Address (if different)

Community Garden Rules

- Garden plots are rented to Natick residents only. Use of the garden for commercial purposes is prohibited.
- There is a \$50.00 fee to rent a plot for the season plus a \$25 cleanup fee. Cleanup fees are refundable upon leaving a plot in a clean and organized manner. The plot should be free of weeds, debris, equipment, and tools as well as any and all plants removed. The plot should be clean and ready for a new plot holder to start gardening. Cleanup fees can either roll over each year or be refunded when the plot is vacated.

- Gardeners must provide their own tools and hose. Unless otherwise stated, storage is not available so all gardening tools and necessities must be transported to and from the garden.
- Plots are limited to one per family unit. Plot size is approximately 10' X 4 and plots are assigned on a lottery system.
- Once open for the season, gardeners must begin working their plot within 21 days of registering. Plots that have not been cleaned and prepared for gardening may be assigned to another applicant without further notice.
- No amplified music, radios or other sound devices please, if at all possible consider personal headphones or ear buds.
- Community garden plots must be gardened and maintained on a consistent basis. Community gardens are public spaces and must maintain a neat appearance through the year, including winter. Active gardening reflects seasonality and includes spring weeding and planting, summer maintenance, regular harvesting, fall clean-up, winter mulch, and periodic check-ins. Gardeners who have weedy or untended plots will be notified in writing and asked to remedy the problems with their plot by a specified date. A minimum of 3 hours a week of garden upkeep throughout the growing season will ensure success for all.
- Seasonal and temporary gardening structures such as trellises and cloches are allowed if they do not encroach upon paths, community spaces, or neighboring plots. Be considerate of your neighbors and orient your structures and plantings to avoid casting shade on other plots. All structures must be removed when a plot is vacated.
- Organic gardening is required. No synthetic chemicals including herbicides, pesticides, or chemical fertilizers are allowed unless they are listed on the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) product list.
- Gardeners must weed and otherwise maintain the paths bordering their garden plots. Cardboard, paper, or burlap paths must be covered with wood chips and leveled. Plants should not grow into or hang over the paths.
- Each gardener is responsible for dealing with the garden material generated from their plot. Gardeners should compost within their own garden plot or take material home and dispose of it in a yard waste container. Do not dump or pile garden materials in common areas. Bringing food scraps from home to compost in your plot, including cooked foods, meats, dairy, eggs, or bones is strictly prohibited. Finished compost from home may be brought into the garden.
- Well-mannered, leashed dogs are allowed in the garden. Please scoop and remove poop.
- Children must be accompanied by an adult while in the garden. Do not leave children unsupervised. All gardeners and guests should respect others' space and should not enter or harvest from someone else's plot without permission.
- Gardeners must be in the garden while watering. Water only within your plot and do not let it seep or flood into neighboring plots or paths. Conserve water by using mulch and hand watering plants. Please notify your garden manager of any leaks as soon as possible. Water will be turned off after September 30 each year and be turned on by April 15.
- In the fall, gardens must be cleaned, cover cropped, mulched, or planted with winter crops. These practices will help protect the soil over the winter, will allow you to start planting earlier in the spring, and will result in a more fruitful garden the next year. In addition, community gardens are public spaces and must maintain a neat appearance through the winter.

- The gardens must be cleaned for winter no later than September 30th. This involves removing dead plants, stakes, temporary fences, jugs, personal property, trash, etc. Please keep the community gardens looking tidy throughout the year, and pick up common areas, to prevent complaints about the program.
- Crops are for home use, not commercial purposes, and must be legal. Gardeners are prohibited from selling excess produce. Do not plant trees. Do not plant invasive or fast spreading plants such as mint, bronze fennel, comfrey, lemon balm, horseradish, ivy, holly, lesser celandine, marsh marigold, etc. Remove these plants if they are growing in your plot. In addition, be mindful of plants that need excessive space such as corn, pumpkin, and winter squash, we strongly recommend avoiding such plants.
- Plot holders must notify the garden manager if they wish to give up their garden plot. You cannot give your plot to someone else. Garden plots are assigned by the Community Garden Manager and only one plot may be assigned per household. If more than one person is gardening in a plot, co-gardeners should be added to the primary plot holder's account by contacting the community garden manager. Co-gardeners can only become the primary plot holder if they have been registered as a co-gardener longer than those on the waitlist have been waiting for a space at that site. Plot holders must notify program staff if they wish to transfer their plot to a co-gardener. Registered gardeners must keep addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses current with the garden manager.
- Plot holders are required to spend a minimum of 6 hours per year (April 15 – Sep. 3) on community projects at their garden site. Half of these community hours (3) must be completed by July 1. This work is meant to help maintain the common areas of your garden, enhance community connections, and complete special projects. It is the plot holder's responsibility to complete, record, and submit community hours to the community garden manager. Plot holders who fail to complete their volunteer hours and fail to communicate with the garden manager will potentially lose their garden plot.
- Gardeners are expected to adhere to program policies. Garden managers and staff will regularly monitor plots throughout the year. When gardeners are found to be in non-compliance, they will receive a letter notifying them of the problem and asking them to take action by a specified date. Gardeners who receive two notices in a year must vacate the plot and the plot will be reassigned.

The penalty for failing to comply with the Natick Community Garden Rules may be immediate cancellation of your privilege to use the Community Garden.

I have read and understand the rules as stated and agree to abide by them I understand that, if my plot becomes unkempt, I will be given a one week's notice to clean it up. I also understand that, if I fail to clean it up by that time it may be reassigned or tilled in. I also agree that, if I must abandon my plot for any reason, I will notify the Community Garden Manager.

Applicant's Signature

Date

For assistance or to report a problem or concerns please call 508-655-2204.